

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 6, 11, 13, 14, and 23 are amended to at least correct minor grammatical errors and to conform the claims according to commonly accepted US patent practice. Furthermore, claim 12 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 25 and 26 are added. Accordingly, claims 1-11 and 13-26 are pending in this application.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representatives by Examiner Connelly Cushwa in the April 23, 2008 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Randall et al. (US2002/0196549). In response, the claims are amended and believed to be patentable over Randall for the reasons discussed below.

As amended, claim 1 recites an optical filtering component, comprising:

means for returning a first part of the radiation reflected by the filter during the first pass back to the filter in order to perform a second pass through the filter;

an output guide configured to conduct reflected radiation outside said band by the filter as a result of the first and second passes; [and]

a unitary collimator, wherein the input guide, output guide, and the returning means are on one side of the collimator, and the filter is on another side of the collimator. (Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully submits that based upon at least Fig. 5c, Randall appears to only disclose wherein filters 510, 511 and returning means 520 are on the same side as collimator 505. Applicant gratefully appreciates the indication by Examiner Connelly Cushwa during the personal interview held April 23, 2008, that Randall does not appear to disclose, teach, or suggest the above recited claim element.

Accordingly, because Randall does not disclose, teach or suggest each and every feature recited in amended claim 1, amended claim 1 is not rendered obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Randall. Applicant respectfully submits, therefore, that independent claim 1 is patentable over Randall.

Claims 1-11 and 13-44 depend from independent claim 1 and are likewise patentable over Randall at least for their dependence on claim 1 an allowable base claim, as well as for additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection over Randall is respectfully requested.

New claims 25 and 26 depend from claim 1, recite further features, and are likewise patentable at least based upon their dependence on claim 1. Claim 25 recites wherein the returning means is a loop shaped waveguide (see Fig. 3). Claim 26 is supported at least by Fig. 1 and clarifies how the components of the optical filtering component are configured to reflect radiation whose wavelength is outside a selected band to an output guide.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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